

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for hemostasis of a puncture site in a blood vessel at an end of a tissue tract, the method comprising:

providing a compression member having a proximal end and a distal end and an expandible element disposed at the distal end thereof;

inserting the compression member through an opening in a skin surface into a tissue tract above the puncture site;

positioning a distal end of the expandible element within the tissue tract at a predetermined distance away from a wall an exterior wall of the blood vessel; and

expanding the expandible element within the tissue tract [[and]] to apply pressure against subcutaneous tissue and to promote hemostasis, wherein the expandible member is left in place until hemostasis has been achieved.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the expandible element is only engageable against subcutaneous tissue surrounding the blood vessel wall.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined distance is in a range from about 0.05 inch to about 0.5 inch .

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the predetermined distance is in a range from about 0.2 inch to about 0.3 inch.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the expandible element comprises a balloon.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein expanding comprises at least one of axial or radial dilation of the balloon so as to cause compression of the subcutaneous tissue surrounding the blood vessel wall.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein expanding comprises inflating a superior aspect of the balloon greater than an inferior aspect of the balloon.

8. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein expanding comprises inflating a distal face of the balloon at an angle to the compression member similar to an angle formed between the compression member and the blood vessel.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein expanding comprises inflating the balloon to a deployed configuration comprising a conical shape.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein expanding comprises unfolding concentric folds of the balloon.

11. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein expanding comprises inflating the balloon to a deployed configuration having a concave distal end.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a locating member having a proximal end and a distal end and an expansible member disposed on the distal end thereof.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising inserting the locating member through the opening in the skin and in the puncture site prior to or simultaneously with compression member insertion.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising deploying the expansible member to an expanded configuration within the blood vessel having a diameter in a range from about 0.05 inch to about 0.5 inch.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising locating the puncture site in the blood vessel wall.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising providing temporary hemostasis of the puncture site with a plug coupleable to the distal end of the locating member.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising contracting and withdrawing the locating member.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising imaging the expandible element during positioning.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering radio frequency energy, ultrasound energy, or microwave energy to the puncture site.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising delivering a clot promoting agent or anti-infection agent to the puncture site.

21. (Original) A kit comprising:

a compression member; and

instructions to use the compression member for hemostasis of a puncture site in a blood vessel according to claim 1.

22-67 (Canceled)